

March 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: China Briefing for the House Minority Leader

Unable to attend the China briefing given the Speaker on March 14, House Minority Leader Rhodes was given a repeat performance in his office at 5:00 p.m. on March 17. Present were Congressman Rhodes, his wife, Press Assistant Jay Smith, and personal secretary Clara Posey, all of whom will be making the trip; present for the Agency were OCI's [redacted] DER's [redacted] and the undersigned, acting for [redacted].

The briefers covered the same ground, in broad brush, as they had with the Speaker. Congressman Rhodes appeared on the whole more knowledgeable and responsive, and less interested in things political than economic.

Congressman Rhodes appeared genuinely pleased to be briefed by us. At the outset, he volunteered his commiseration with the Director over the congressional investigations. Later, he asked if we had any messages that he could pass to Prince Sihanouk if they should meet in Peking (we told him a meeting was unlikely). At the end, he said that he would make arrangements to have himself "debriefed" after the visit.

Congressman Rhodes had his China briefing book on his desk, but allowed that he had not had time to review it. At the beginning of the briefing, I gave him another copy of the China atlas, per [redacted] suggestion; he expressed pleasure when I told him he could keep it.

Distribution:

- 1 - DDI
- 1 - AD/OCI
- 1 - [redacted] via Chief, EAP/OCI
- 1 - [redacted] via, D/OER
- 1 - OLC
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - CSO Chrono

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

March 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: China Briefing for the Speaker of the House

Following up on an offer I made earlier, [redacted] OCI, [redacted] OER, and I briefed the Speaker and those members of his staff who are accompanying him to China. The briefing was in his office and took the better part of an hour.

[redacted] discussed the Chinese leadership and who does what and to whom within it. She touched on such things as Mao's long absence from Peking; Chou's health, both physical and political; and the feud between military and political leaders over the past few years. In response to a question from the Speaker she described Teng Hsiao-ping's return to political life and power following the Cultural Revolution.

[redacted] discussed Sino-US trade and the general status of the Chinese economy. Both [redacted] emphasized the deep seated animosity the Chinese have for the Soviets.

We prepared and delivered to the Speaker on Thursday a briefing book--unclassified--which contained a paper on the Chinese political scene; biographic material on key officials he is likely to meet; and several papers on the Chinese economic scene. Mr. Albert expressed his thanks for both the briefing and the book. We have made arrangements to talk to him and his staff after they return from China.

Distribution:

- 1 - DDI
- 1 - AD/OCI
- 1 - [redacted] via Chief, EAP/OCI
- 1 - [redacted] la D/OER
- 1 - OLC
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - CSO chrono

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

March 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 10 March Briefing of the Speaker of the House

I spent about 45 minutes with the Speaker this morning. He was briefed on Cambodia, South Vietnam, Brezhnev's health, STAT the world grain situation, and the OPEC summit meeting. These last two were dictated by his constituency. I also discussed some of the more important intelligence gathering [redacted]

STAT [redacted]

The Speaker volunteered the information that his mail was running about 50-1 against further aid to Cambodia. While, as he put it, "you get more letters from cranks than from real people," he expressed doubts that the additional military aid requested by the Administration would be granted. He said this might well hold true for Vietnam as well.

I mentioned to the Speaker that we were preparing unclassified briefing books on China for him and the House Minority leader. This led to some discussion of China and his forthcoming trip. I suggested it would be worthwhile for him and Mr. Rhodes to talk with some of our analysts about political and economic conditions in China. He readily accepted this idea and we have an appointment Friday morning. I have contacted appropriate offices in OCI and OER.

In discussing travel, the Speaker remarked that he hoped to visit the Soviet Union. He said Dobrynin had been at him constantly last summer on this matter. Then he noted wryly that he hadn't heard much from the Soviet Embassy since the trade bill passed.

Messrs. Albert and Rhodes will be taking a staff of twelve with them to China aboard a USAF aircraft. In addition to the briefings and the books, we will distribute a few copies of the China Atlas.

[redacted] STAT

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

Distribution:

- ✓ 1 - DDI
- 1 - D/OER
- 1 - AD/OCI

1 - [redacted] Approved For Release 2006/01/17 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000100170040-2

- 1 - OLC
- 1 - CSO Chrono

STAT